

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 21, subject to the approval of the Examiner. Specifically, elements 453 and 452 are changed to correctly reflect the positions of the air blower 452 and the air sucker 453, consistent with the flow of air stream 454. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amended drawing.

Attachments:        Replacement Sheet including Figs. 19 and 21 (1 page).

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action<sup>1</sup>, the Examiner rejected claims 26-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoo (U.S. Patent No. 6,376,806 B2, hereafter "Yoo") in view of Guardado et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,990 B1, hereafter "Guardado"). Applicants have amended claims 26-30 and 36-38; and have added claims 53-55. Accordingly, claims 1-55 are pending, with claims 1-25 and 40-52 withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants have amended the specification to correctly describe the location of air sucker 453 and to correct a minor typographical error, as described in the Amendments to Specification section. In addition, Applicants have amended claims 26-30 and 36-38 to even more clearly set forth the present invention. Applicants also submit a Replacement Sheet which, based on the Examiner's approval, includes corrections to Fig. 21. The proposed changes correctly identify the location of the air blower 452 and the air sucker 453, as described in the Amendments to Drawings section.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 26-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoo and Guardado. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be satisfied. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify a reference or to combine references. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the

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<sup>1</sup> The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim elements. See M.P.E.P. § 2143. Moreover, the requisite teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in Applicants' disclosure. See *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). See M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 26 as neither Yoo nor Guardado teach or suggest a motivation to combine the references in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Even assuming that all elements of claim 26 are taught by the references, neither Yoo nor Guardado provide a motivation to combine the references in the manner suggested by the Examiner. M.P.E.P. § 2143.01 states that “[t]he mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination” (emphasis added). Furthermore, the Examiner has not provided a motivation or suggestion from Yoo or Guardado, except to make general statements that “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art . . . to combine,” the references in the suggested manner. Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established based on Yoo or Guardado, and thus claim 26 is allowable.

Compared with this, FIG. 2A of Yoo illustrates closed-end tube 103 surrounding wafer 108, process chamber 102, and scanner assembly 200 having radiation energy source 202. Scanner assembly 200 is movable in the directions indicated by arrows 206 and 208 with respect to process chamber 102 with the help of actuator 204. However, Yoo does not disclose a stream forming section which forms a gas or liquid stream between scanner assembly 200 and wafer 108.

Meanwhile, Guardado illustrates inlet 18 and outlet 20 in FIG. 1 and discloses supplying the inside of a chamber with inert gas (Column 5, Lines 31-38). However, lamps 26 of Guardado are fixed and not movable with respect to wafer 14. Therefore, Guardado does not suggest the relationship between the direction of circulating inert gas and the moving direction of lamps 26 and wafer 14.

In particular, Yoo and Guardado do not suggest forming a liquid stream at all.

Claim 26 is allowable. Claims 27-39 depend from claim 26, and are therefore allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 26-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

New claims 53-55 also depend from claim 26 and thus incorporate each and every element of claim 26. Dependent claims 53-55 are therefore allowable over the cited prior art, for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 26.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

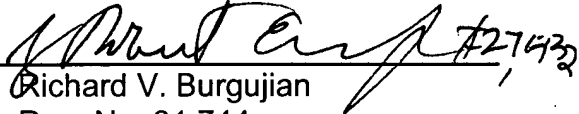
Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
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